

Application No.: 10/057,667
Amendment and Response dated August 17, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action of April 30, 2004
Docket No.: 760-12 DIV/RCE
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application, and please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended): A method of making a tubular stent/graft assembly comprising the steps of (i) forming a substantially planar strip and wire assembly comprising ~~non-woven~~ an essentially flat, planar graft strip material formable into a graft and an essentially flat, planar stent wire formable into a radially adjustable stent, wherein said wire is attached lengthwise along the length of said planar strip and further wherein said graft strip is formed by extruding, casting or molding polymeric material; and (ii) helically winding said substantially planar strip and wire assembly to form said tubular stent/graft assembly.

Claim 2. (currently amended): The method of claim 1 further including forming said planar strip and wire assembly by positioning said planar stent wire between two layers of said planar graft strip material.

Claim 3. (currently amended): The method of claim 2 wherein said layers of planar graft strip material are laminated together.

Claim 4. (currently amended): The method of claim 3 wherein said planar strip and wire assembly comprises multiple layers of graft strip material on each side of said stent wire.

Claim 5. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the planar graft strip material is ~~a non-textile~~ an extruded strip of polymeric graft material.

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Claim 6. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of helically winding said substantially planar strip and wire assembly further includes winding the assembly so that at least two consecutive windings overlap.

Claim 7. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of helically winding said substantially planar strip and wire assembly further includes winding the assembly so that consecutive windings do not overlap.

Claim 8. (currently amended): A method of making a stent/graft assembly comprising:
forming a substantially planar graft and stent material assembly comprising ~~non-woven~~
an essentially flat, planar graft strip material and an essentially flat essentially flat, planar stent
material, wherein said graft strip is formed by extruding, casting or molding polymeric
material; and

winding said substantially planar graft and stent assembly to form said stent/graft
assembly.

Claim 9. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of forming said
substantially planar graft and stent assembly further includes undulating said stent material
along its length.

Claim 10. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein said stent material is an elongate
stent wire.

Claim 11. (currently amended): The method of claim 8, wherein said graft strip
material is an extruded planar strip of polymeric graft material.

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Claim 12. (currently amended): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of forming said substantially planar graft and stent material assembly further includes positioning said stent material between two layers of graft strip material.

Claim 13. (currently amended): The method of claim 12, further including the step of laminating said two layers of graft strip material together.

Claim 14. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of winding said substantially planar graft and stent assembly includes winding said assembly so that at least two consecutive windings overlap.

Claim 15. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of winding said substantially planar graft and stent assembly includes winding said assembly so that consecutive windings do not overlap.

Claim 16. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of winding said substantially planar graft and stent assembly further includes helically winding said assembly to form a tubular structure.

Claim 17. (currently amended): A method of making a tubular stent/graft assembly comprising the steps of (i) forming a substantially planar strip and stent assembly comprising an essentially flat, planar non-woven graft strip material formable into a graft and an essentially flat, planar stent formable into a radially adjustable stent, wherein said planar stent is attached along the length of said planar strip and further wherein said graft strip is formed by extruding, casting or molding polymeric material; and (ii) helically winding said substantially planar strip and stent assembly to form said tubular stent/graft assembly.

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Claim 18. (currently amended): The method of claim 17 further including forming said planar strip and stent assembly by positioning said planar stent assembly between two layers of said planar graft strip material.

Claim 19. (currently amended): The method of claim 18 wherein said layers of planar graft strip material are laminated together.

Claim 20. (currently amended): The method of claim 17 wherein the planar graft strip material is an extruded a non-textile strip of polymeric graft material.

Claim 21. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein the step of helically winding said substantially planar strip and stent assembly further includes winding the assembly so that at least two consecutive windings overlap.

Claim 22. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein the step of helically winding said substantially planar strip and stent assembly further includes winding the assembly so that consecutive windings do not overlap.

Claim 23. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein said planar stent comprises a plurality of stent wires.

Claim 24. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein said planar stent comprises a plurality of linked stent wires.

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Claim 25. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein said planar stent is comprised of nitinol.

Claim 26. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein said planar stent is attached lengthwise along the length of said planar strip.